

RECALL BID FACES DELAY IN ARIZONA

Legal Snags Confront Foes of Republican Governor

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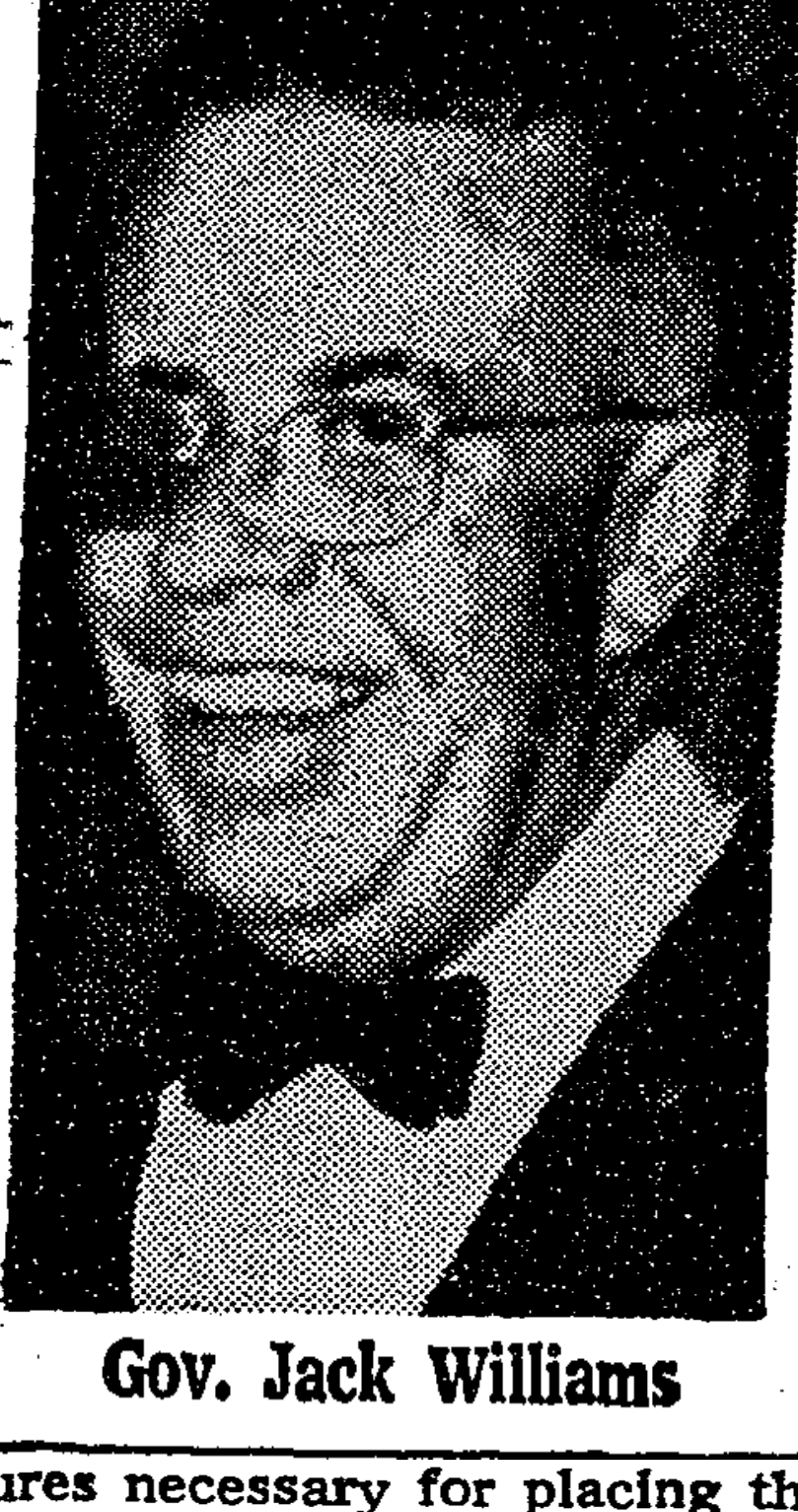
Arizona's Gov. Jack Williams, a Republican, will face a recall election later this year if recall organizers succeed in surmounting legal complications.

The recall forces are led by the United Farm Workers and include women's rights organizations, environmentalists, and forces in the Democratic party.

Earlier this month the recall organization announced that their candidate against Mr. Williams would be Gerry Pollock, 40 years old, an outspoken liberal lawyer who has twice run unsuccessfully for the House against Representative John J. Rhodes, a Republican.

The recall effort began last May when Governor Williams, who is serving his third term, refused to veto a farm labor law.

Since May, the major effort of the recall forces has been securing the 103,000 signa-



Gov. Jack Williams

tures necessary for placing the issue on the ballot. Recall officials say they have gathered 160,000 signatures toward their goal of 175,000, to allow for invalid signatures.

Union Restricted

The law the Governor refused to veto is similar to California's hotly contested Proposition 22, which was defeated in the November election. It prohibits boycotts and strikes during harvests, both major weapons of the farm workers, and sharply restricts the union's power to organize in the fields.

In the face of opposition from many of the conservative Democrats in the state, the leaders of the recall have made a concerted attempt to present the recall as a broad-based drive, rather than solely a farm worker issue. Forces supporting the Governor have stressed the involvement of the farm workers and their leader, Cesar Chavez, in the recall.

Mr. Pollock began his campaign last month when he started a walking tour of the state.

His attacks on Governor Williams have emphasized what Mr. Pollock regards as the Governor's "lack of leadership" on issues of environment, welfare, taxation, health and education.

Mr. Williams's replies have been infrequent, but sharp and well-publicized by The Arizona Republic and The Phoenix Gazette, the only major papers in the state's major county, Maricopa.

Those supporting the Governor chide the recall forces for not filing their petitions in time to put the issue on the November ballot.

One legal problem facing the recall forces is the status of the 213,000 registered voters who did not vote in the November election.

According to state law, these voters have been purged from the rolls, with the result that the Democratic voter registration lead has been trimmed from 93,000 to 21,000. There is a tradition of high crossover from Democrat to Republican in Arizona elections.

The recall forces sought to have the purge declared illegal but Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Ed W. Hughes ruled that he did not have jurisdiction since the recall petitions had not yet been filed.

Recall officials say they would have filed next month if the voter purge had been countermanded, but that now they will delay their filing until they can mount a re-registration drive.

Further legal problems stem from the lack of precedent governing recall elections and from the statement by the key county recorder that he believes signers of the recall petition must be registered voters at the time the petitions are handed in. The recall forces argue that being registered at the time of signing the petition is sufficient. A court resolution of that debate seems likely.

Another legal question is whether the statutory 35-day time period between the filing of the petitions and the recall election will allow sufficient time for prospective candidates to circulate nominating petitions and acquire the required 40,000 signatures.

The recall forces insist that their object is winning the election but they also express considerable satisfaction at the political base they have started to build in the state.

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